

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH REQUEST FOR T-38 AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 47636

1. TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL CALLED ON ASSTSEC (EUR) VEST JULY 5 TO DISCUSS TURKISH REQUEST FOR T-38 AIRCRAFT TO MODERNIZE TRAINING CAPABILITY (REFTEL). ESENBEL SAID THE TURKS WISH TO PURCHASE 30 OF THE T-38 AIRCRAFT (COST DOLS 250,000 EACH), WITH FIRST INSTALLMENT OF 15 TO BE DELIVERED BY SEPTEMBER 1979, AND BALANCE DELIVERED BY MARCH 1980. IN ORDER TO BEGIN PROCUREMENT OF LONG LEAD TIME SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, THE TURKS ARE HOPEFUL THAT DOLS 2.5 MILLION CAN BE REALLOCATED FROM FY78 FMS CREDITS SET ASIDE FOR THE F-4 PURCHASE PROGRAM. THE ABOVE T-38
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DELIVERY SCHEDULE WOULD BE DELAYED, SO THE TURKS HAVE BEEN TOLD, UNLESS LONG LEAD TIME ITEMS ARE ORDERED NOW. ESENBEL SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM DEFMIN ISIK REQUESTING APPROVAL OF THE REALLOCATION; IN ADDITION, A TGS AIR FORCE GENERAL WAS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON TO PURSUE THIS AND OTHER MATTERS. ESENBEL PROVIDED VEST WITH AN AIDE MEMOIRE ON THE SUBJECT. (TEXT IN PARA 5).

2. VEST RESPONDED THAT DEPT WOULD REVIEW REQUEST VERY CAREFULLY WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES. HOWEVER, OUR INITIAL INFORMAL ASSESSMENT WAS THAT A SEPARATE, NEW PD WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REALLOCATE FY-78 FMS FINANCING TO PURCHASE T-38'S. VEST ADDED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AT PRESENT TIME FOR ADMINISTRATION TO PRESENT CONGRESS WITH NEW PD ON TURKEY.

3. DEPTOFF NOTED THAT ENTIRE DOLS 175 MILLION FMS AUTHORITY FOR FY-78 HAD ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED UNDER TWO EARLIER PD'S. TO PROPOSE A MAJOR NEW PROGRAM NOW COULD ATTRACT ADVERSE ATTENTION. WE WONDERED WHY TURKISH INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF T-38'S COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF FY-79 PROGRAM.

4. VEST PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER FURTHER AND PROVIDE RESPONSE TO ESENBEL AS TO WHETHER SALE AND FINANCING OF T-38'S FOR TURKEY WOULD BE FEASIBLE IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, I.E. WHETHER NEW PD WOULD BE REQUIRED AND WHETHER FY-78 FINANCING COULD BE REALLOCATED FOR THIS PURPOSE. SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING, WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SALE OF T-38'S AND USE OF REALLOCATED FINANCING THEREFOR WOULD REQUIRE NEW PD UNDER SECTION 620(X) OF FAA. VEST TELEPHONED ESENBEL JULY 7 TO INDICATE THAT T-38 SALE IN FY-78 NOT RPT NOT FEASIBLE IN ABSENCE NEW PD. ACCORDINGLY, IT WAS OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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JUDGMENT THAT T-38 PROGRAM SHOULD BE PROPOSED AS PART OF OUR FY-79 PROGRAM.

5. TEXT OF TURKISH AIDE MEMOIRE: BEGIN TEXT: THE TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMAND (TAFC) IS FACING A PRESSING REQUIREMENT TO REPLACE THEIR AGING T-33 AIRCRAFT. THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE HAS ADVISED THE TAFC THAT 30 T-38 AIRCRAFT COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AS REPLACEMENT TRAINERS.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE AIRCRAFT COULD BE ACQUIRED BY A DIRECT PURCHASE (AT A COST OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 250,000 PER AIRCRAFT) AS THE TAFC WOULD PREFER, OR THROUGH A LONG TERM LEASE ARRANGEMENT.

THE TAFC NEEDS TO OBTAIN 15 OF THESE AIRCRAFT BY SEPTEMBER 1979 AND THE REMAINING 15 BY THE BEGINNING OF MARCH 1980 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRANSITION SCHEDULE.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCURRENCE WILL BE REQUESTED TO PURCHASE 30 T-38 AIRCRAFT AND THE REQUISITE SUPPORT PACKAGE OF SPARES, SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, PUBLICATIONS, SIMULATORS AND TRAINING.

TO FACILITATE AN EARLY AND ORDERLY ACQUISITION OF THESE
AIRCRAFT IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PERMISSION OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT WILL BE ALSO NECESSARY TO UTILIZE A

PORTION OF THE TURKISH FY-1978 FMS CREDITS WHICH WILL BE
DIVERTED FROM OTHER NEEDS (APPROXIMATELY DOLS 2.5 MILLION)
TO PURCHASE LONG LEAD TIME SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. JULY 5,1978.
END TEXT. VANCE

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